prevented me from adopting Professor Owen's view as to the generic affinity of this fish, which I thought, in the absence of specimens preserved entire, would prove to be rather with the Murray cod, *Oligorus*; and thus the fish appeared in nearly all subsequent publications as *Oligorus gigas*. Castelnau, however ('Notes on the Edible Fishes of Victoria,' 1873, p. 8, and Proc. Zool. Soc. Vict. ii. 1873, p. 151), proposed to form a new genus for it, *Hectoria*, "on account of its armed tongue, double-pointed operculum, &c."

In more recent years the same fish has been found far from the place of its first discovery, viz. off the island of Juan Fernandez, and described by Steindachner as *Polyprion Kneri* (Sitzungsb. Wien. Acad. lxxi. p. 443); also the 'Challenger' obtained it off the same island (Chall. Shore Fish. p. 24).

Finally, the British Museum obtained from the Fisheries and Indo-Colonial Exhibitions specimens (in spirit as well as mounted) from New Zealand and Juan Fernandez *; and a direct comparison of these specimens can leave no doubt that all belong to the same species, which is antipodal to the only other species known, *Polyprion cernium*.

Lowe (Fish. Madeira, p. 185) has shown that *P. cernium* is a deep-sea fish, swimming near the surface when young, but living habitually at a depth of 300 and more fathoms when adult. The wide range of this genus is therefore not surprising; in fact we may well expect that *P. cernium* will be met with far beyond the limits of the north-eastern Atlantic.

XXVII.—*On Australian Fishes of the Genus* Beryx.

By Dr. A. Günther, F.R.S.

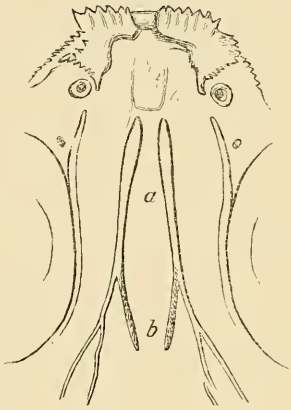
The British Museum has recently acquired, in a collection of fish from Adelaide, a fine specimen of *Beryx*, which, although closely allied to *Beryx affinis*, is clearly specifically distinct from it, differing somewhat in the fin-formula, in the size of the scales, and especially in the form of the nostrils and the sculpture of the opercles and of the upperside of the head. It may be named

* Those exhibited by the Chilian Government, and presented by them to the British Museum, bore the MS. name "*Perca fernandeziana*."

Beryx Gerrardi.

D. $\frac{6}{13}$. A. $\frac{4}{12}$. V. 1/7. P. 14. L. lat. 37.
L. transv. 6/12.

The height of the body is contained twice and one fourth in the total length, without caudal; the length of the head twice and three fifths. Operculum crossed by parallel raised lines, which also extend over the surface of two flat prominences, which take the place of spines proper; præoperculum



armed with a series of very small spines at its rounded angle. The two median ridges (*a*) of the interorbital space are subparallel and do not join in front; they bifurcate behind, the inner branches (*b*) being strongly convergent. Eye more than one third of the length of the head. Nostrils two small openings, separated by a broad bridge. Pectoral fin shorter than the head without snout; caudal fin deeply cleft. Coloration uniform.

Length of the single specimen 13 inches.

For comparison I will add the diagnosis of *Beryx affinis*.

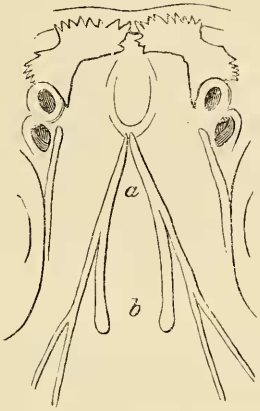
Beryx affinis.

Beryx affinis, Günth. Fish. i. p. 13; Hutton, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1877, xix. p. 341.

D. $\frac{7}{12}$. A. $\frac{4}{12-13}$. V. 1/7. P. 13. L. lat. 41–47.
L. transv. 6–7/12–13.

The height of the body is contained twice and one fourth

in the total length without caudal; the length of the head twice and two thirds. Operculum crossed by parallel raised lines and armed with two strong, flat, and smooth spines; angle of the præoperculum armed with similar spines, of which one is much stronger than the others. The two median ridges



(*a*) of the interorbital space converge and join in front; they bifurcate behind, the inner branches (*b*) being parallel. Eye two sevenths of the length of the head. Nostrils wide, open, separated by a very narrow bridge. Pectoral fin longer than the head without snout. Caudal fin deeply cleft. Coloration uniform.

We possess specimens from Sydney and Hobart, the largest being 15 inches long. This species seems to extend also to the coast of New Zealand.

Beryx lineatus.

Beryx lineatus, Cuv. & Val. iii. p. 226; Günth. Fish. i. p. 13.
Beryx Mülleri, Klunz. SB. Ak. Wiss. Wien, 1880, lxxx. p. 359, Taf. iii. fig. 1.

Of this species we have received a very fine example from Adelaide, which shows that the fish described by Klunzinger cannot be separated from the Cuvierian species. I take this opportunity of correcting an error in the 'Catalogue of Fishes' (*l. c.*), where King George's Land is printed for King George's Sound.